



AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY FORM

MEETING DATE: 12/16/2024

PREPARED BY: Jason O'Mara, Assistant Director of Parks & Recreation

AGENDA CONTENT: Discussion on possible action on natatorium hours of operation and lifeguard staffing.

AGENDA ITEM SECTION: Regular Agenda

BUDGETED AMOUNT: N/A **FUNDS REQUESTED:** None

FUND: N/A

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

At the Angleton Better Living Corporation (ABLC) meeting on September 16, 2024, staff presented the fiscal year 2024-2025 budget for consideration and approval. A key item was the proposed increase in lifeguard staff to address safety and risk management concerns related to water coverage and the operation of the waterslide. While the ABLC approved this request, the board requested that staff evaluate options to reduce the budget impact for future consideration.

To provide context for these discussions, staff have attached the current zones of coverage, which require four lifeguards on stands and one lifeguard as the "down guard", or rotating guard, to allow a break from eye fatigue. These placements are strategic to maximize visibility and response capabilities, adhering to the 10/20 rule. The 10/20 rule is an industry-standard that ensures that lifeguards can scan their assigned zone within 10 seconds and reach a swimmer in distress within 20 seconds.

Due to the design of the pool, including multiple walls and blind spots, this level of coverage is necessary to meet safety standards. Additionally, the **Operations and Maintenance Manual** from WhiteWater Industries, the slide manufacturer, specifies:

- **Section 2.1 (Top of the Slide):** Each slide must be supervised by at least one attendant with continuous and direct supervision of the area.
- **Section 2.2 (Splash Pool):** Each splash pool must be supervised by at least one certified lifeguard with continuous and direct supervision of the area.

Attendance Data Analysis

The following analysis examines weekday morning attendance at the Angleton Recreation Center natatorium during the fiscal year 2023-2024. This data was utilized to evaluate options and support recommendations for reducing operating hours. Additionally, staff would like to highlight that evening operating hours were previously reviewed by the board on June 16, 2024, with a recommendation to adjust the closing time from 8:30 PM to 7:30 PM. This recommendation was approved by the ABLC and implemented on October 1, 2024.

<i>Monthly Attendance FY 23-24</i>						
<i>Month</i>	<i>5:00 AM</i>	<i>6:00 AM</i>	<i>7:00 AM</i>	<i>8:00 AM</i>	<i>9:00 AM</i>	<i>10:00 AM</i>
<i>October-23</i>	31.50	66.33	106.50	287.00	70.00	173.50
<i>November-23</i>	51.00	73.50	62.33	236.50	72.83	121.00
<i>December-23</i>	24.00	43.50	73.00	175.00	89.00	139.00
<i>January-24</i>	26.00	43.50	76.00	224.50	99.50	140.50
<i>February-24</i>	52.00	54.00	78.00	301.00	86.00	148.50
<i>March-24</i>	43.00	56.00	103.00	279.00	106.50	383.00
<i>April-24</i>	25.00	67.00	112.33	260.50	126.50	107.00
<i>May-24</i>	42.00	116.50	169.00	237.50	248.50	172.00
<i>June-24</i>	14.00	77.00	136.83	282.00	239.00	338.00
<i>July-24</i>	2.00	18.00	23.00	30.00	76.00	58.00
<i>August-24</i>	6.00	40.00	75.00	346.50	259.00	214.00
<i>September-24</i>	5.00	43.50	80.50	254.00	248.00	78.00
TOTAL	321.50	698.83	1095.50	2913.50	1720.83	2072.50

<i>Seasonal Averages</i>						
<i>Season</i>	<i>5:00 AM</i>	<i>6:00 AM</i>	<i>7:00 AM</i>	<i>8:00 AM</i>	<i>9:00 AM</i>	<i>10:00 AM</i>
Non-Peak	69.00	140.30	217.35	574.28	318.63	392.78
Peak	7.33	45.00	78.28	219.50	191.33	203.33

<i>Daily Averages</i>						
<i>Season</i>	<i>5:00 AM</i>	<i>6:00 AM</i>	<i>7:00 AM</i>	<i>8:00 AM</i>	<i>9:00 AM</i>	<i>10:00 AM</i>
Non-Peak	1.53	3.12	4.83	12.76	7.08	8.73
Peak	0.49	3.00	5.22	14.63	12.76	13.56

Preliminary Cost-Saving Recommendations

To address the board's request, staff have developed the following cost-saving options:

1. Reduced Morning Hours

- **Total Savings:** \$14,573
- **Details:**
 - Open the pool at 6:30 AM Monday through Friday year-round instead of earlier.

- Reduces staffing for 5 lifeguards, 5 days per week for 52 weeks.
- 2. **Reduce Peak Season by 3 Weeks**
 - **Total Savings:** \$6,500
 - **Details:**
 - End the peak season by August 15th or the second weekend in August, rather than extending to Labor Day.
 - Reduces staffing for lifeguards from 11:30 AM to 4:30 PM for 3 weeks.
- 3. **Eliminate the Morning Slide Attendant**
 - **Total Savings:** \$5,184
 - **Details:**
 - Reduce staffing by 1 Slide Lifeguard on weekday mornings for the non-peak season. Slide would only be open on weekday nights and weekends.
- 4. **Reduce Pool Evening Schedule During Non-Peak Season**
 - **Total Savings:** \$21,175
 - **Details:**
 - Limit evening pool hours to Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday during the non-peak season.
 - Reduces staffing for 1 Aquatic Assistant, 5 lifeguards, and 1 Slide Lifeguard, 2 days per week for 37 weeks.
- 5. **Tuesday/Thursday Morning Closures (Labor Day to Memorial Day)**
 - **Total Savings:** \$30,070
 - **Details:**
 - Close the pool on Tuesday and Thursday mornings during the non-peak season (fall/winter).
 - Reduces staffing for 5 lifeguards and 1 Slide Lifeguard, 2 days per week for 37 weeks.
- 6. **Holiday Closures**
 - **Total Savings:** \$8,993
 - **Details:**
 - Close the pool on 11 holidays annually.
 - Reduces staffing for:
 - 1 Aquatic Assistant (8 AM - 6 PM)
 - 5 Lifeguards (8 AM - 6 PM)
 - 1 Slide Lifeguard (8 AM - 6 PM)

Potential Concerns & Stakeholder Input

Staff feel confident we can move forward with cost-saving recommendations numbers 1, 2, and 3. Reducing hours in the morning or evening will impact, and potentially eliminate, different user groups (e.g. families utilize the pool in the evening, and retirees and shift workers utilize the pool in the mornings). If consideration is given to cost-saving recommendations numbers 4, 5, and 6, staff recommends Angleton Recreation Center members be notified in advance and allowed to express concerns. Additionally, a fee study is being conducted city-wide for permits and user fees. Fee study outcomes may suggest an increase in membership pricing which could help offset the increase in lifeguard coverage and associated costs.

Future Evaluation

Staff plans to reassess pool coverage requirements following the installation of the new natatorium play feature. While not guaranteed, the new design may enhance visibility and potentially allow for reduced staffing levels.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the ABLC move forward with cost-saving recommendations numbers 1, 2, and 3. Staff recommends the ABLC review and discuss these cost-saving options for pool operations and provide direction on the next steps. Staff are prepared to refine and implement approved measures while maintaining compliance with safety standards and operational guidelines.